

City of Baraboo
Parks & Recreation Commission
November 11, 2019 – Minutes

Present: Roy Franzen, Jim Francisco, Craig Schlender, Mike Plautz, Chantel Steinhorst, Shelley Mordini & Mike Hardy

Also Present: Emily Truman, City Attorney & Mark Schauf, Police Chief

Franzen called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Legal Posting of the Agenda had been met. Steinhorst moved and Schlender seconded approval of the October 14, 2019 minutes. Motion carried.

Francisco moved to approve the agenda as printed, seconded by Steinhorst. Motion carried.

Action Items: Francisco presented a request from the Elks Club to waive fees for use of the Civic Center for their December 21 Christmas party for area kids. Franzen stated that past policy has been to reject waiver requests to avoid setting precedence as most renters of the facility are non profits with similar missions of community service. Police Chief Schauf noted that the police department has a fund that is meant for requests like this and he offered to pay the rental fees. No action was taken.

Hardy stated that the zoo would feature a new Docent program for adult volunteers in 2020 and his staff is working to train new volunteers. The Friends of the Zoo would like to oversee the Docent program and are getting insurance coverage for the volunteers. They would like the City to train docents and they would recruit and schedule them with cooperation from zoo staff. Franzen moved to allow Friends of the Baraboo Zoo to administer a volunteer docent program in the zoo with assistance in training from City staff. Seconded by Steinhorst. Motion carried.

Hardy requested direction on final removals of all public ash trees, with staff having caught up to un-treated ash removals, we now have time to remove all ash (not just poor ash). Schlender moved to direct staff to begin removals of all public ash trees that are not being treated and replace with new species to maintain canopy. Seconded by Steinhorst. Motion carried.

Francisco moved to approve spending an additional \$3,800 from the Park Segregated Fund for the completion of the beaver exhibit at the zoo. Seconded by Mordini. Motion carried.

Informational Items: City Attorney Emily Truman provided training on roles and responsibilities of being a Commissioner, including an overview of the Open Meetings Law. Commissioners had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss requirements.

October revenues were \$11,207.55

Hardy updated Commission members on construction activities at the zoo, including expected completion of the beaver exhibit which was delayed due to the early winter weather. Hardy also noted that several people had contacted him wanting to serve on the new Inclusive Advisory Committee. After the holidays it is expected that activities may begin with that group.

Next Regular Meeting: December 9, 2019 at 5:30pm.

Francisco motioned to adjourn, Schlender seconded. Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Hardy, Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director